

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

SS-15 NSC-10 IGA-02 IO-13 COME-00 RSR-01 /163 W

----- 027460

R 221620 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6595

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 1202

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJ: PARACHUTE DROPS

USEC FOR WENDT; PARIS FOR RAICHT; ROME FOR FODAG; AID FOR AFR/ CWR/
SDE

1. AS RESULT DISCUSSIONS I HAD IN EARLY JUNE WITH
BELGIAN HERCULES AIRLIFT TEAM COMMANDER CONCERNING POSSIBLE
MERIT PARACHUTING US SORGHUM TO ISOLATED DISASTER LOCATIONS
IN NORTHERN UPPER VOLTA, BELGIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL
ARRIVED OUAGADOUGOU YESTERDAY TO SEEK GOUV APPROVAL
FOR GETTING PROJECT UNDER WAY. FAO TEAM LEADER MENSAH,
SAHEL REGIONAL RELIEF COORDINATOR KONATE, AND I OBTAINED
THIS APPROVAL THIS MORNING FROM NATIONAL COORDINATING
COMMITTEE AFTER WORKING SESSION WITH BELGIANS AND DONOR
COMMUNITY. BELGIANS NOW SEEKING FINAL GO AHEAD FROM BRUSSELS.

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2. IF APPROVED, ONE BELGIAN HERCULES AIRCRAFT WILL BE USED FOR PARACHUTE DROPS DURING PERIOD JUNE 27- JULY 10. IF OPERATION SUCCESSFUL, A SECOND HERCULES MIGHT BE ASSIGNED. PLANE WILL BE FULLY EQUIPPED WITH CONTAINERS AND PARACHUTES SUFFICIENT TO DROP TOTAL 220 TONS ONE TON AT A TIME. PLANE CREW WILL INCLUDE FOUR PARACHUTE RIGGERS AND FOUR DROP TECHNICIANS.

3. WITH ASSISTANCE LOCAL FED OFFICE, NATIONAL COMMITTEE NOW ATTEMPTING WORK OUT PRECISE TARGETING FOR DPOPS. WILL PROBABLY LIMIT TARGET LIST TO 10-20 PRIORITY POPULATION CONCENTRATIONS NOW OR SOON TO BE CUT OFF FROM FURTHER FOOD SUPPLY BECAUSE OF WATER DAMAGE TO ROADS. AT INSISTANCE FAO SEED MISSION, TARGETING WILL ALSO BE BASED ON IDENTIFICATION OF PEASANT POPULATIONS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE EAT SCARCE SEED SUPPLY THAT MUST BE RESERVED FOR INITIAL PLANTING OR FOR REPLANTING AREAS WHERE FIRST PLANTING FAILED.

4. WHAT ARE PRESENT PLANS AND PROPOSED ITINERARY OF CBS TELEVISION TEAM REPORTEDLY VISITING SENEGAL, MAURITANIA AND PERHAPS MALI? IF THEY ARE STILL IN WEST AFRICA AREA LATER THIS MONTH, BELGIAN AIRDROP OF US SORGHUM MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THEM. BELIEVE THIS WILL BE FIRST USE OF PARACHUTES IN PRESENT SAHEL DROUGHT RELIEF OPERATION. EASUM

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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